Royalty to Maharashtra for extracting coal

780. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what royalty is paid to Maharashtra Government for extracting coal in Nagpur, Chandrapur and Yeotmal Districts of Maharashtra State annually;

(b) what was the amount of royalty paid during the last three years *i.e.* 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) what is the rate of payment of royalty to the State Government and when it was that last fixed or revised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Royalty paid by Western Coalfields Limited to Maharashtra Government during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Royalty paid
1982-83	2·45
1983-84	3·66
1984-85	5·20

(c) The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 13-2-1981. At present the rate varies from Rs. 2.50 per tonne to Rs. 7.00 per tonne depending upon the group in which particular grade if coal is classified.

Drilling in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

781. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil exploration done by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar have indicated oil reserve; and

(b) if so, whether O.N.G.C. propose to take up drilling work in these islands and what is the programme in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. ONGC propose to drill 9 wells in the offshore areas of Andaman & Nicobar during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Report on working of E.C.L.

782. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert panel on the Eastern Coalfields Limited (E.C.L.) has submitted its report to Government on the working of E.C.L.;

(b) whether the panel has recommended closure of some mines; if so, how many of such mines; and

(c) what are the grounds on which this closure has been recommended?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY: (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of very high cost of production and extremely low Output Per Manshift in some of the mines, the Committee have observed that such mines deserve to be closed

Cost of Production of one L.P.G. cylinder

783. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of production of one LPG cylinder;

(b) what is the amount of security which is deposited by the customer for one LPG cylinder;

(c) whether this amount of security deposit remains with the LPG dealer or it is deposited by them with Government;

(d) whether any interest is allowed to the LPG customer on this security deposit; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether some interest shall be allowed to the depositors because this amount is deposited by them for an indefinite period with the LPG dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The cost of production of one indigenous LPG cylinder is about Rs. 360/-.

(b) The present rate of deposit for L.P.G. cylinder and regulator is Rs. 500/-.

(c) The amount of security deposit collected by the dealers is being deposited with the respective Oil Companies.

(d) and (e) The security deposit collected from the customers, is utilised for replenishment of cylinder and for operating and maintaining LPG facilities at a satisfactory level. For every cylinder and regulator provided to the customer, the oil industry has to maintain a supply of 1.6 cylinders and 1.1 regulators and therefore no interest on the security deposit is payable.

Status of Karnal Refinery

784. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans for meeting the requirements of petroleum products for the year 1990-91 in the country and what is the present status of the Karnal Refinery;

(b) whether there was a proposal for the construction of the Karnal Refinery in the joint venture;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the work for the Karnal Refinery has been stopped; and

(d) if the answer to the above parts be in the affirmative, whether Government have decided to shelve the Karnal Refineries project; whether Government propose to borrow capital from the market to construct this refinery; what are the reasons for which the refinery is being slowly left to die a natural death when there is a vast market in North India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) In order to meet the requirement of Petroleum products for the year 1990-91 poposals for expansion of the capacity of the Mathura, Gujarat and Bongaigaon Refineries are under consideration. A proposal to set up a 6 MTPA grass root refinery at Karnal by IOC was approved in September, 1984. However, during the exercise made for financing the 7th Plan a constraint of resources was coming in the way of implementation of this project. Setting up of this refinery in the joint sector is being considered and offers received from various parties for joint sector participation are being examined.

Discovery of oil at Cauvery Basin

785. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI L. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wells in which oil was discovered at Cauvery Basin, Thanjavur;

(b) what is the quantity of the oil discovered;